

GREAT HARWOOD

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Inspector of Nuisances.

1918.

ST. HUBERT'S LODGE,
GREAT HARWOOD,
5th May, 1919.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Great Harwood Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your District for the year ending, December 31st, 1918.

The statistics are compiled from figures issued by the Registrar General to the Local Government Board, the estimated population for the death-rate being 12,034, and 13,484 for the birth-rate, and all rates in this report are calculated on these figures.

During the year 157 births have been registered, viz :—87 Boys and 70 Girls, giving a birthrate of 11·6 per thousand for the year, this is undoubtedly the lowest rate we have on record.

The birth rate for 1917 was 12·4 and the average for the ten years 1908-17 was 18·6.

The deaths during the same period numbered 196, viz :—96 males and 100 females, giving an annual death-rate of 16·2.

The death rate for 1917 was 13·5, and the average for the ten years 1908-17 was 11·7.

20 deaths of children under one year of age have been registered, equal to a death rate of 127 per thousand births.

The death-rate for 1917, under one year, was 105, and the average for ten years 1908-17, was 95.

The causes of death under one year of age were :—

Congenital Malformations	...	...	3
Enteritis	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	2
Dentition	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	7
Premature Birth	...	...	6
Total	...	...	20

The causes of death at all ages were :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2
Influenza and its complications	...	...	...	38
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	11
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	7
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	22
Meningitis	...	...	...	3
Heart Disease (Organic)	...	...	...	13
Bronchitis	...	...	...	9
Pneumonia	...	...	...	24
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	3
Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	...	...	1
Nephritis and other forms, Bright's disease	...	...	...	5
Suicide	...	...	...	3
Congenital Debility, etc.	...	...	...	8
Violence (apart from Suicide)	...	...	...	2
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	39
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	196

An epidemic of Influenza occurred in this district about the end of June and continued until the end of August, and it was deemed necessary to close the following schools from July 9th to 14th, viz :—Western Council School, Parish C.E. (Boys), and St. Wulstan's R.C.

About the end of October the disease again became prevalent, and in November and December an epidemic was raging. Owing to the severity of the outbreak it was again deemed necessary to close all the schools in the township from Nov. 12th to Dec. 8th, and thoroughly disinfect the same.

Hand Bills were also circulated throughout the District advising various precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease, and disinfectants were freely supplied to the inhabitants.

Before the end of December the epidemic was practically at an end, but unfortunately, along with its complications, had proved fatal in 28 cases.

During September, owing to complaints by Mothers and Invalids who were not able to obtain milk, I advised your Council to take advantage of the powers granted by the Local Government Board to supply necessitous cases free or at a reduced cost where essential, rather than Nursing Mothers or Children should suffer for the want of milk, and I am pleased to say that the Council adopted my recommendation.

A daily supply of Milk was obtained by the Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. Eddleston) which he distributed from his office every morning, and I am pleased to state that all Nursing Mothers, Children, and Invalids, who had any difficulty in obtaining a supply of Milk, have on application to him, received a regular supply throughout the winter.

The Lady Health Visitor has made 1989 visits during the year. She has given advice regarding the feeding, rearing, and general welfare of mother and infant.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is still carried on and is held fortnightly—the average attendance during the year being ten.

The meetings are attended by the Lady Health Visitor, and a few lady members of the Committee, also the Inspector of Nuisances (who acts as Secretary) and myself. The Infants are examined and weighed, and general advice given with regard to the feeding, care, and general welfare of the infant.

Mothers are provided with tea and biscuits when attending the Centre.

The food exposed for sale in the shops, etc., has been under constant supervision as well as the Tripe Boiling Works, Public Abattoir and the one belonging to the Great Harwood Co-operative Society.

200 lbs. of Frozen Beef was ordered to be destroyed.

The Factories and Workshops as well as the Dairies and Cowsheds have been periodically inspected. Limewashing, etc., has received attention and the premises have been found in a fairly cleanly state.

Nothing has been done during the year respecting Insanitary Property and Defective Cowsheds, etc., which are matters referred to in the County Medical Officers' Report of 1916.

The removal of Nightsoil and Ashes and the Scavenging of the Town has been efficiently carried out under the supervision of your Inspector of Nuisances.

The following is a statement of the present Closet accommodation in the District.

Pail Closets (Out Districts)	...	36
Fresh Water Closets	...	412
Earthenware Tanks	...	120
Waste Water Closets	...	2668

During the year the following cases of Zymotic Diseases have been notified ;—

18 Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 4 Other Tubercular Diseases, 3 Enteric Fever, 9 Scarlet Fever, 5 Erysipelas, 2 Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 7 Diphtheria, and 45 Measles. Total 93.

21 Deaths have occurred, viz :—11 Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 7 Other Tuberculous Diseases, 2 Whooping Cough, and 1 Diphtheria.

The Zymotic Deathrate is 1·6 per thousand, against a Death-rate of 1·6 in 1917 and 1 in 1916.

The cases of Tuberculosis are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Medical Officer, who visits the patient and makes necessary arrangements for removal to a Sanatorium if necessary.

A Nurse also frequently visits the patients and makes arrangements with the Inspector of Nuisances, to supply sputum cups, paper handkerchiefs, disinfection, etc. She continues to visit the patient for an indefinite period and gives general advice.

Whenever a case of Infectious Disease is notified, disinfectants are supplied, verbal and printed instructions given with regard to isolation and prevention of the spread of disease. After recovery of the patient, arrangements are carried out for the disinfection of the premises, clothing, bedding, etc.

The arrangements made with the Accrington Corporation, whereby infected bedding, etc., can be conveyed to their Steam Disinfector when necessary, are still in operation.

As a prevention against Diarrhoea, etc., during the summer months, handbills were circulated giving instructions with regard to cleanliness, lime-washing, and the protection of food from flies, and asking the inhabitants to refrain from eating over or under-ripe fruit or other articles of diet of an indigestible nature.

The Building Trades, Street Improvements, and General Works, have again been at a stand still during the year.

I consider the death-rate of 16.2 fairly satisfactory for a manufacturing district, and will bear favourable comparison with most other towns and districts, The average death-rate throughout England and Wales being 17.6.

The birth-rate is the lowest on record, but as you are fully aware, is a natural sequence of the great war.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I congratulate you on the satisfactory sanitary condition of your District, and I earnestly thank you for the encouragement and support you have always given me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN PATCHETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

TOWN HALL,

GREAT HARWOOD.

May 5th, 1919.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Great Harwood Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I hereby submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending, December 31st, 1918.

Many Nuisances have been remedied consisting of the following :

Blocked W.C's, Drains, etc.	...	298
Defective Slop-Waste Pipes	...	2
Houses in a filthy condition	...	1
Accumulations of Refuse	...	4
Blocked Street Gulleys	...	3
		<hr/>
		398

The present closet accommodation in the District is as follows :

Pail Closets (Out Districts)	...	...	36
Earthenware Tanks	120
Fresh Water Closets	412
Waste Water Closets	2663
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Total	3231

During the year 93 Cases of Infectious Disease have been notified. Investigation and enquiries were made and particulars relating thereto reported to the Medical Officer of Health.

Drains and surroundings were examined where necessary, disinfectants freely supplied, and instructions given respecting isolation and absence of children from school, etc.

47 premises, including the schools, have been thoroughly disinfected during the year, under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, special attention being given to the schools during the epidemics of Influenza.

Factories, Workshops, Bakehouses, Abattoirs, Tripe Boiling Works, Dairies and Cowsheds have been supervised, and the lime-washing, cleansing, etc., have received attention.

The Public Urinals have been regularly cleansed and disinfected.

The Refuse from Fish Shops, etc., is collected daily.

The Ashpits, Scavenging of the Streets, Cleansing of all Gullies, Removal of Shop Refuse, Distribution and Bottling of Disinfectants, Distribution of Paper Handkerchiefs, Sputum Cups, Removal and Destruction of Beds, have all received regular attention throughout the year.

Over 800 Ashbins are emptied weekly, as well as 36 Pail Closets in the out-districts.

During the Winter months I have supplied Milk daily at my office to all Mothers, Invalids, and Children up to five years of age, and as far as I know, no necessitous case has had need to complain that they could not obtain a daily supply of milk on making application to me.

Matters requiring attention as soon as circumstances will permit are as follows :—

- Abolition of the Earthenware Tanks.
- Reconstruction of several Cowsheds, etc.
- Repairs in connection with Dwelling Houses.
- Emission of Black Smoke from Factory Chimneys.

I am, Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant,

ALBERT EDDLESTON,

Inspector of Nuisances.

